

# **SUMMARY OF 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update**

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## **Meeting Time and Location**

The second meeting of the Intermodal Advisory Council for the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Update was held on March 19, 2002 at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## **Meeting Attendees**

The following persons attended the meeting:

### **Consultant Team Members**

Butch Babineaux, WSA

### **Council Members**

F.E. "Hank" Lauricella  
Darrel Saizan, New Orleans Airport  
Billy App, J.W. Allen & Co. Inc.  
Louis K. Bangma, LA Assoc. of RR Pass  
Huey Dugas, BR MPO  
Elton Pody, Central LA C of C  
Glen Guillot, LMTA  
Revius O. Ortique, Jr., New Orleans Airport  
John Polanski, Port of Lake Charles  
David Wagner, Port of New Orleans  
Maggie Woodruff, New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Don Redman, AAA  
Patrick Judge, LA Public Transit Assoc.,  
Bruce Bradley, LABI  
Carmack M. Blackmon, LA RR Assoc.  
Anthony Marino, BTR Airport

### **Non-Member DOTD Staff**

Eric Kalivoda, DOTD  
Dan Broussard, DOTD  
Ken Perret, DOTD  
Jim Joffrion, DOTD

### **Other Attendees**

Sean C. Hunter, New Orleans Airport  
Loulan Pitre, Jr., Rep., LA House of Reps.  
Bill Cooksey, Shreveport Airport Authority  
Chris Petro, NW LA COG

Karen Parsons, NO Reg Planning Comm  
Eric England, Port of Shreveport - Bossier

### **Meeting Purpose**

Hank Lauricella, Acting Chair of the Council, opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The purposes of this meeting were to provide Advisory Council members with an overview of the Plan Update status, inform the Council members of their new role in the Plan Update process, and provide members with an overview of transportation revenues and expenditures in Louisiana.

Butch Babineaux presented an overview of the status of the Plan Update. Mr. Babineaux also briefly discussed the Values, Goals, and Objectives recently adopted for the Plan Update. Eric Kalivoda described the Louisiana Investment in Infrastructure for Economic Prosperity (LIIEP) Commission and its role in the Plan Update. He went on to describe the new role of the Intermodal Advisory Council in the Plan Update decision-making process. The Intermodal Advisory Council will gather recommendations from the other advisory councils, determine the proper mix of projects and programs among the modes (including potential financing), and assemble a draft Plan for consideration by the LIIEP Commission.

Dr. Kalivoda then delivered a presentation on transportation revenues and expenditures in Louisiana regardless of whether the funds pass through the Department of Transportation and Development. The presentation included information on both federal and state funds. Information on DOTD's operating budget was also covered.

### **Summary of Meeting Comments**

- ❑ The LSTP should recommend a more proactive approach in securing additional federal funds for freight and passenger rail improvements
- ❑ Concern was expressed that state police funding, which is taken from LA DOTD's budget, will continue to increase due to additional national security requirements
- ❑ The LSTP should give more emphasis to improving the intrastate transportation system for all modes
- ❑ Louisiana is a member of the SHARE Coalition that was formed to increase the rate of return to at least 95 percent of the State's contribution to the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which compares to the 90.5 percent currently being received
- ❑ Adequate funding for all the proposed transportation improvements to be included in the LSTP will be a challenge. For example, proposed highway improvements will likely need to be prioritized into three groups such as:
  - critical improvements that must be implemented within the funding likely available to the State;

- good projects to be implemented with additional funding; and
  - those projects that would not provide significant benefits from a statewide perspective but rather more of a local priority.
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- ❑ There is a need for more innovative funding programs to provide increased state matching money to take advantage of available federal funds
  - ❑ There are current discussions that the federal transportation reauthorization bill could potentially increase state matching share to 40 to 50 percent.
  - ❑ Louisiana's congressional delegation should be advised that this increase in state match would have a devastating impact on the state's ability to secure available federal funds and implement needed improvements. Louisiana is barely able to match federal funds for all modes at the current matching share of approximately 20 percent.
  - ❑ Expenses at ports will significantly increase to meet national security requirements. Approximately \$93 million, in federal grants/funding is currently being considered for improved port security nationwide. The Port of New Orleans estimates a total of \$31 million will be needed just to meet their security needs. The Port of New Orleans is one of 22 ports in Louisiana, which are considered the most open port system in the US.
  - ❑ The Intermodal Council should be provided with information and research regarding the use and pros/cons associated with alternative funding sources (SIB, TIFIA, GARVEE bonds, tolls, etc.) to be able to make an informed decision on the financing options to be recommended for needed transportation improvements in Louisiana. Additionally, the Council should be advised where alternative funding has been used successfully in other states and how much additional funds could be generated with various increases in vehicle registration fees and increased fuel taxes, and implementation of new funding programs.

### **Next Steps**

- ❑ The next Intermodal Council meeting should be held in the next 3-4 months. The purpose of this meeting will be to present the preliminary recommendations from the other modal councils, and to provide information regarding alternative funding sources and their impacts on increased monies.

### **Election of a Permanent Chair**

- ❑ Hank Lauricella was elected permanent chair of the Intermodal Advisory Council.

